

Find out more

#observing80s
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Observing the 1980s

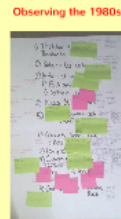
Making official history unofficial?

Jill Kirby
University of Sussex

Observing the 1920s
Themes and perspectives
Formations and ethics
Theory and technology



Observing the 1980s
Select archive material
Organise archive material
Identify contexts for teaching module
Build teaching module
Package new digital materials
Post emerging ideas



Observing the 1980s



Spring Semester 1990 No. R321
180490
Part II
Schizophrenia: What do the Eighties
For us the Eighties was -
1. The reign of Maggie Thatcher
2. A decade of disaster - train + plane crashes, fires,
sinking ships etc.
3. An increasing social class awareness of our
environment.
4. Beginning of the end of communist domination.
5. Escalating house prices + increasing mortgages.
And on a more personal level -
1. Marriage break up + divorce something I thought
would never happen to me.
2. Buying a house on my own.
3. Buying a house + being solely responsible for its
 upkeep.
4. Working full time again + at the end of 1989
moving from the N.H.S. to the private sector.

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II
The Eighties
26/7/90 R470
To me the 80s was the decade of the grandchildren
'86 '88 + '89. It was also the decade of redun-
'83 and '86. The first time I thought I would not
work again, but I found out that if you are not
choosy and prepared to work, there is always a
job available. At the moment it seems possible that
it is on the horizon again. In the 80s I became a
capitalist worker again. I had used some of my unearned rewards
to become a home owner. I also bought my first
ever brand new car.

Observing the 1980s

Making official history unofficial?

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Observing the 1980s

Select archive material

Digitise archive material

Identify extracts for teaching module

Build teaching module

Package raw digitised materials

Put everything online



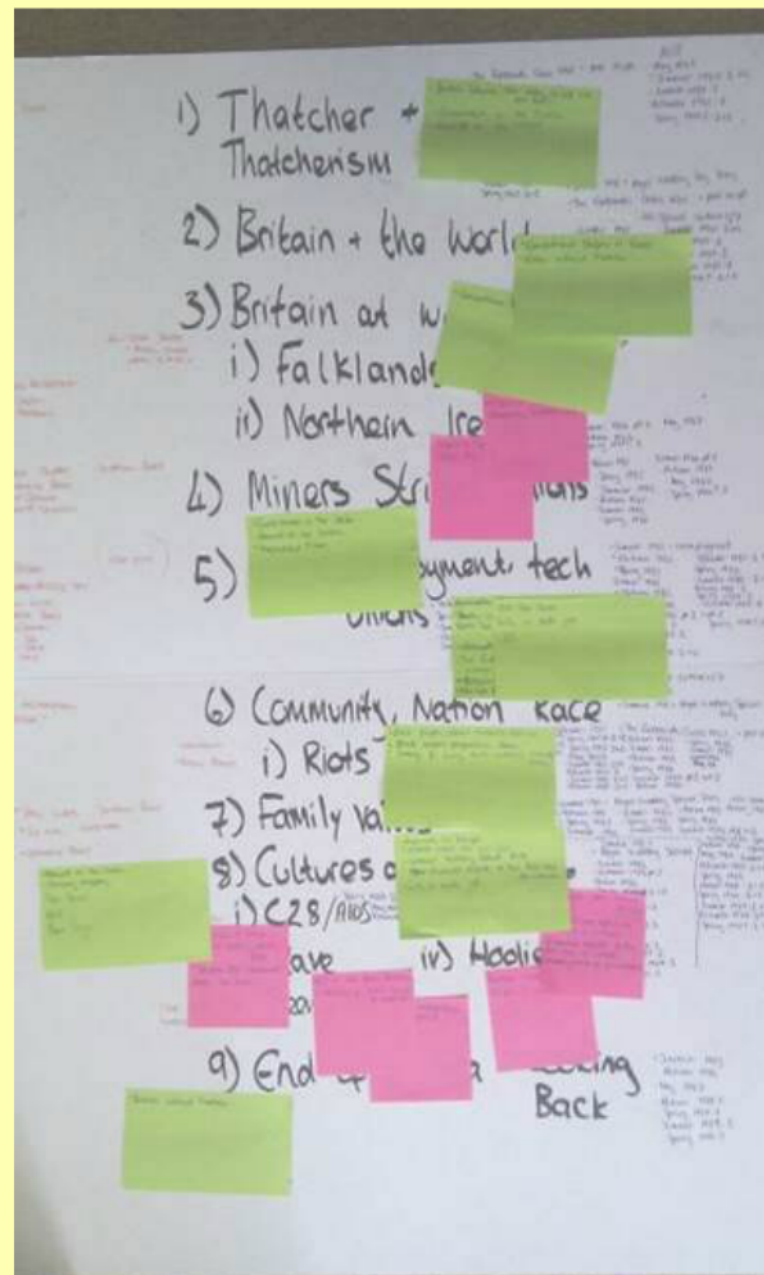
Observing the 1980s

Themes and practicalities

Permissions and ethics

Sharing and technology

Observing the 1980s



Spring Directive 1990.

Part II Retrospective View of the Eighties

For me the Eighties was:-

1. The reign of Maggie Thatcher.
2. A decade of disasters - train + plane crashes, fires, sinking ships etc.
3. An increasing world wide awareness of our environment.
4. Beginning of ? the end of Communist domination.
5. Escalating house prices + increasing mortgages.

And on a more personal level :-

1. Marriage break up + divorce something I thought would never happen to me.
2. Learning to live on my own.
3. Buying a house + being solely responsible for its upkeep.
4. Working full time again + at the end of 1989 moving from the N.H.S. to the private sector.

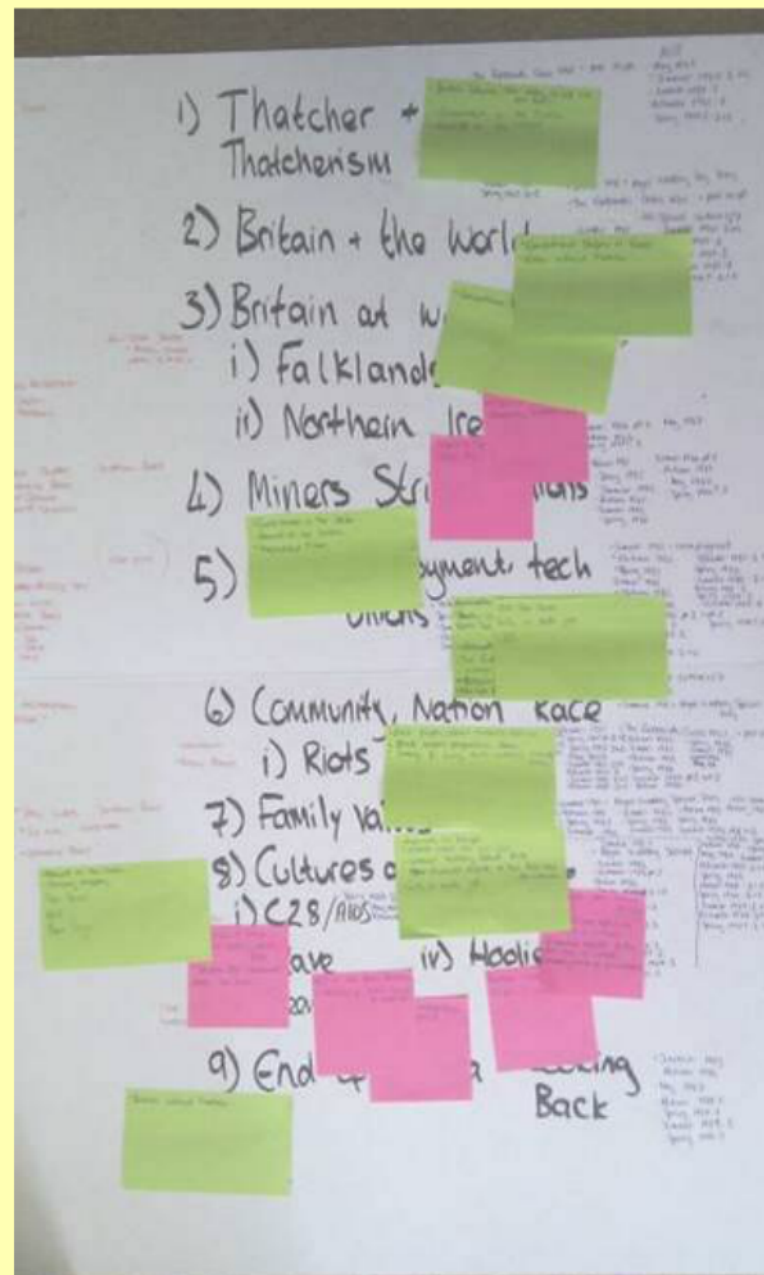
4. Working full time again + at the end of 1989
moving from the N.H.S. to the private sector.

26/7/90 ♂ R470

The Eighties

To me the 80s was the decade of the grandchildren '84 '88 + '89. It was also the decade of redundancy '83 and '86. The first time I thought I would not work again, but I found out that if you are not choosy and prepared to work, there is always a job available. At the moment it seems possible that it is on the cards again. In the 80s I became a capitalist^{with N.F.C. shares} and used some of my unearned rewards to become a home owner. I also bought my first ever brand new car.

Observing the 1980s



Observing the 1980s

4/ B 1426.

Buying clothes For me this is a chore which is put off as long as possible and is then got over as quickly as possible. I usually go out knowing what I want and get very rapidly disgruntled when I can't get it. Certainly cost, comfort, ease of maintenance i.e. Machine Washable, come before fashion which I think is more for women & youngsters. I suppose I am what could be called a conservative dresser. It is more important for clothes to be functional than in high fashion. As I find it difficult enough buying my clothes for myself I don't even attempt to buy clothes for other people. I would even prefer my wife to take someone else with her when buying her own clothes rather than have her rely on my approval. When it comes to colours I seem to stick to Blues & Greys, the 'safe' colours I suppose, and I must admit to preferring a white shirt although pastel shades are OK. I do not like striped shirts however on me or anyone else. I will buy all my clothes locally if I can get what I want but my wife always goes to Reading if she wants a special dress. We also buy quite a lot of our clothes from a Mail Order Catalogue. This applies more to my wife than myself as I find I can't get trousers for instance. They only have certain sizes and don't usually come long enough with my waist size. This is a problem in the local shops I also of course. The most expensive item in my wardrobe is my latest suit and this was a modest £70. As this is shows, I don't make many expensive purchases, so I can't make expensive mistakes. However I did comment that I wasn't over impressed with a coat my wife had purchased some time ago for what was then an expensive £30 and she wouldn't wear it again and actually gave it away so this can be counted as my mistake. I don't make anything other than noncommittal comments these days. Regarding "Designer Labels" I find it sad to find parents indulging very young children with these items. Often this is done without thought of any possible consequences and can be the cause of much heart-ache with the creation of a further have & have not

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(BR)

Winter Directive 1984.

1. I have 150 known relatives who have offspring and cousins, brothers, aunts, uncles and sisters that I know to nothing about.


We have contact with a few in America owing to visits and the odd card or letter. Those over here, we see a few times a year. We don't see them on a regular basis as everybody works or is in engaged in something that cannot be left for a long time e.g. doing cows.

We visit the B's at "Clare" Randalstown most often. Mrs. B senior is my mother's sister. She has five children who are all grown up and (err) are a similar age to my brother and myself. George, the eldest has a wife from Kilmarnock and they have three children. Margaret is married to an Englishman and she lives in Middleborough. Joan B, Margaret's sister is married to a man from Larn who works in a bank. Joan works in the bank too but not at the same place. Doneen and Fred, their brother and sister live at home. Fred does not go farther than Aghaghill very often and he keeps race horses. Doneen works in Belfast and has her own car. My uncle Andy, Mrs. B's brother visits every Saturday. He works for his brother James and the formerly for my

Observing the 1980s

OBSERVING THE 80S

HOMEBLOGBACKGROUND



Observing the 1980s brings together voices from the [Mass Observation Project](#) & [British Library Oral History Collections](#) alongside ephemera from the [University of Sussex Library](#).


The material offers a unique and inspiring insight into the lives and opinions of British people from a range of social classes and regions, combined with publications dealing with contemporary issues such as the Poll Tax, AIDS and the Falklands Conflict during the 1980s.

[More about the project](#)

RESOURCES

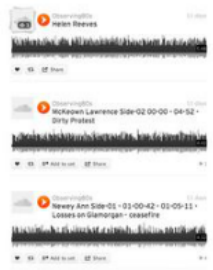
MASS OBSERVATION

Correspondence written in the 1980s by contributors to the archive

[Explore](#)


THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Recordings from the Oral History Collections

[Explore](#)


University of Sussex Library

Publications chosen for their relevance to the themes of Observing the 1980s

[Explore](#)


INFOGRAPHICS

Infographics created for the project

[Explore](#)


OER

Moodle teaching site using project resources

[Explore](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook timeline and Youtube playlist

[Explore](#)

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Find out more

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